

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application. Claims 2 and 12 are hereby canceled without prejudice of disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1, 6-9 and 11-13 are independent. Claims 1, 3-11 and 13 are hereby amended. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed and specifically on pages 26-28. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

Claim 7, 11, and 13 are hereby amended, thereby obviating the objection.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 5-9 and 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over US Patent Number 6,041,133 to Califano et al. (hereinafter, merely "Califano").

Claims 2-4 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Califano in view of US Patent Number 6,233,348 B1 to Fujii et al. (hereinafter, merely “Fujii”).

III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“...second detection means for detecting a center point which is a center of a registered image;

sorting means for sorting the first feature points on the basis of a distance between the center point detected by the second detection means and the plurality of first feature points;

first generation means for generating a triangle which connects three arbitrary points close to one another from among the plurality of first feature points,

wherein the first generation means uses the sorted first feature points to generate the triangle...” (Emphasis added)

As understood by Applicant, Califano relates to a method and apparatus provide for automatic recognition of fingerprint images.

As understood by Applicant, Fujii relates to a feature point information calculating unit that calculates the connection of a feature point extracted by a feature point extracting unit through a ridge, and an identifying unit identifies the connection state of the feature point calculated by the feature point information calculating unit.

Applicant submits that neither Califano nor Fujii, taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest the above identified features of claim 1. Specifically, neither of the references used as a basis for rejection describe second detection means for detecting a center point which is a center of a registered image, as recited in claim 1.

Specifically, the Office Action relies on Fujii to provide a description of detecting a center point. However, Applicant submits that the center point detected in Fujii is the **center position of the fingerprint, not the center of the registered image as claimed in claim 1**. The Specification, page 27, of the present application states that the center point of the registered image is not the center of the fingerprint, so the center can be found quickly and easily.

Indeed, Fujii teaches away from the present invention because Fujii detects the center position of the fingerprint. (See Fujii, column 37, lines 62-66) Thus, the detected center point in Fujii is different from the center point of the image in present invention, and it can not be found quickly and easily, compared with present invention.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Fujii describes a description of detecting a center point, and fails to teach or suggest detecting a center point which is a center of the registered image, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to, or somewhat similar to, those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claims 6-9 and 11-13 are also patentable.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

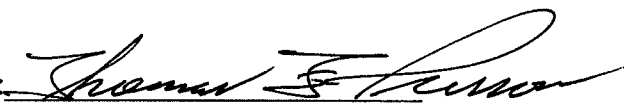
In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of the statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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